WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A content supplying apparatus for supplying content to another apparatus based on a request from said other apparatus, comprising:

first obtaining means for obtaining first information concerning a function of said other apparatus;

second obtaining means for obtaining second information concerning the content, the second information corresponding to the first information obtained by said first obtaining means;

third obtaining means for obtaining the content;

converting means for converting the content obtained by said third obtaining means based on the second information obtained by said second obtaining means; and

supplying means for supplying the content converted by said converting means to said other apparatus.

2. A content supplying apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the second information includes one of a converting parameter for converting the content and a coding difficulty of the content.

3. A content supplying apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said second obtaining means obtains the second

information from a descriptor which is transmitted separately from the content.

4. A content supplying apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said converting means comprises:

decoding means for decoding coded content; and

encoding means for encoding the content decoded by said decoding means based on a decoding parameter which is used by said decoding means when performing the decoding and the second information described in the descriptor.

5. A content supplying method for a content supplying apparatus for supplying content to another apparatus based on a request from said other apparatus, the method comprising:

a first obtaining step of obtaining first information concerning a function of said other apparatus;

a second obtaining step of obtaining second information concerning the content, the second information corresponding to the first information obtained in said first obtaining step;

a third obtaining step of obtaining the content;

a converting step of converting the content obtained in said third obtaining step based on the second information obtained in said second obtaining step; and

a supplying step of supplying the content converted in said converting step to said other apparatus.

6. A recording medium having recorded thereon a computer readable program for a content supplying apparatus for supplying content to another apparatus based on a request from said other apparatus, the program comprising:

a first obtaining step of obtaining first information concerning a function of said other apparatus;

a second obtaining step of obtaining second information concerning the content, the second information corresponding to the first information obtained in said first obtaining step;

a third obtaining step of obtaining the content;

a converting step of converting the content obtained in said third obtaining step based on the second information obtained in said second obtaining step; and

a supplying step of supplying the content converted in said converting step to said other apparatus.

7. A signal generating apparatus for generating, based on content, a content-information signal concerning the content, comprising:

a coding difficulty analyzing circuit for analyzing a coding difficulty of the content and outputting the result

as the content-information signal; and

a memory for storing the content and the content-information signal.

8. A signal generating apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said coding difficulty analyzing circuit comprises a first analyzing circuit for analyzing a motion compensation difficulty of the content.

9. A signal generating apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said first analyzing circuit outputs a parameter indicating inter-frame correlation of the content.

10. A signal generating apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said first analyzing circuit outputs a search range of a motion regarding motion compensation of the content.

11. A signal generating apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said coding difficulty analyzing circuit comprises a second analyzing circuit for analyzing a compression difficulty of the content in the space domain.

12. A signal generating apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said second analyzing circuit outputs an intra-coding difficulty when each frame of the content is intra-

coded.

13. A signal generating apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said coding difficulty analyzing circuit analyzes the coding difficulty in segment units, segments being obtained by dividing the content.

14. A signal generating apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said coding difficulty analyzing circuit analyzes the coding difficulty, normalizes the coding difficulty, and outputs the normalized coding difficulty as the content-information signal.

15. A signal generating apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the content and the content-information signal are stored in separate memory, respectively.

16. A signal generating method for generating, based on content, a content-information signal concerning the content, comprising:

a coding difficulty analyzing step of analyzing a coding difficulty of the content and outputting the result as the content-information signal; and

a storing step of storing the content and the content-signal information in memory.

17. A converting apparatus for converting content into content in a predetermined format, comprising:

a memory for storing the content and a content-information signal concerning the content;

first obtaining means for obtaining information on a terminal for reading the content; and

converting means for converting the content into a format suitable for said terminal based on the content-information signal;

wherein the content-information signal includes coding difficulty information indicating a coding difficulty of the content; and

said converting means converts the content based on the coding difficulty information.

18. A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the coding difficulty information includes information indicating a motion compensation difficulty of the content.

19. A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the coding difficulty information includes a parameter indicating inter-frame correlation of the content.

20. A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the coding difficulty information includes a search range of a motion regarding motion compensation of the content.

21. A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the coding difficulty information includes information indicating a compression difficulty of the content in the space domain.

22. A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the coding difficulty information includes an intra-coding difficulty when each frame of the content is intra-coded.

23. A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the content-information signal includes the coding difficulty information in segment units, segments being obtained by dividing the content.

24. A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the content-information signal includes normalized coding difficulty information.

25. A converting method for converting content into

content in a predetermined format, comprising:

a storing step of storing the content and a content-information signal concerning the content in memory;

obtaining step of obtaining information on a terminal for reading the content; and

a converting step of converting the content into a format suitable for said terminal based on the content-information signal;

wherein the content-information signal includes coding difficulty information indicating a coding difficulty of the content; and

in said converting step, the content is converted based on the coding difficulty information.

26. A reading terminal for converting content into content in a predetermined format and reading the content, comprising:

a memory for storing the content and a content-information signal concerning the content;

converting means for converting the content into a format suitable for said reading terminal based on the content-information signal; and

reading means for reading the converted content;

wherein the content-information signal includes coding difficulty information indicating a coding difficulty of the

content; and

said converting means converts the content based on the coding difficulty information.

27. A reading method for a reading terminal for converting content into content in a predetermined format and reading the content, the method comprising:

a storing step of storing the content and a content-information signal concerning the content in memory;

a converting step of converting the content into a format suitable for said reading terminal based on the content-information signal; and

a reading step of reading the converted content;

wherein the content-information signal includes coding difficulty information indicating a coding difficulty of the content; and

in said converting step, the content is converted based on the coding difficulty information.